are the major components of action being taken to deal with cross border terrorism while ensuring security of own posts. Operations are being launched to specifically target the terrorists.

Shortage of young officers in Army

3384. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Army is facing a shortage of young officers;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is affecting the combat potential of the army as may have ben experienced during the Kargil conflict and or the recent Poorna Vijay exercises; and

(c) the steps being taken to induct the young and more upwardly mobile officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Army has been experiencing shortage of young officers which has some impact on the combat potential of the Army.

(c) Several steps have been initiated by the Government. An Image Projection Campaign was launched during 1997-98. The campaign has made a positive impact on the availability and selection of candidates. Steps have been taken to continue the campaign.

Waiving of Military Standards in Procurement of Non-Strategic items

3385. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to waive stringent military standards in procurement of non-strategic items required for armed forces?

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any norms would be fixed for procurement of non-strategic items for armed forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir. (b) to (d) Do not arise